

--15. Cellulose fiber according to claim 12 having a cellulose content of between 1.0 and 3.0% by mass, based on the mass of the cellulose fiber, of cellulose, with a molecular weight of at least  $5 \times 10^5$ .--

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--16. Cellulose fiber according to claim 13 having a cellulose content of between 1.0 and 3.0% by mass, based on the mass of the cellulose fiber, of cellulose, with a molecular weight of at least  $5 \times 10^5$ .--

--17. Cellulose fiber according to claim 7 wherein said fiber is a staple fiber.--

--18. Cellulose fiber according to claim 8 wherein said fiber is a staple fiber.--

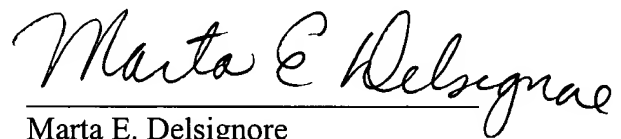
Remarks

In response to the restriction requirement mailed February 8, 2000, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-4, 10 but traverse the requirement on the basis that the examination of the subject matter of Group III, claim 6-9 would not cause an undue burden in the Patent Office.

By the foregoing amendment, the specification and claims have been amended to conform more closely with U.S. patent practice and to avoid improper multiple dependency. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 6-9 have been amended and new claims

11-18 have been added. It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered as it does not constitute new matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marta E. Delsignore". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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